end is a very good marble copy of the Apollo of Belvedere, which Gontaut brought from Rome. The conservatory is kept in a most slovenly manner, and has nothing in it but flowerless lilacs.

Gontaut's wife was rendered very unhappy by his conduct in the Revolution, and by her own losses. He has been courting the daughter of a famous Madame Case, who once was a great beauty and made a great noise;[1] but his nose has been put out of joint by his son.

June 28th, 1797.

Monsieur and Mademoiselle de Maulde have returned to spend a few days with me, which will enliven my evenings should the rain continue; but in fact they have brought back the sunshine,

I know not yet when I am to remove to

[1] Madame d'Esparbes, a near relation of this lady, was once an inmate of the Parc-aux-Cerfs, and was so capricious and immoral in her *liaisons,* that Louis XV. at length lost all patience, and rebuked her, saying, "How, madam, can you expect me to have the slightest regard for you, when I know that you are in love with half my subjects ? What excuse have you ? " " Ah, sire 1" replied she,

pretending to blush, ."I am so kind-hearted." "Why, there is Choiseul," continued the King. "He is so power-